



## Historical Society Newsletter

**OFFICERS:** President, Mary Vetter; Vice President, Joan Rowland;

Secretary, Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer, JoAnn Rowland;

**TRUSTEES:** Dan Chertok, Ron Deutsch, Ron Feulner, Katie Finnegan,  
Louise Okoniewski, Jane Potter and Robert Roackle

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

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email [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistsoc@gmail.com)

[www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com)

### CALENDAR

**April 17, 2018 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.

**Program:** *Mary Jane Pelzer* is the “soap lady” at the Saratoga Farmers’ Market. The program is “Good, Clean Fun: A short history and demonstration of heritage soap making.”

**May 15, 2018 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** *Greg Veitch*, Chief of Police for Saratoga Springs, will talk about his book – *All the Law in the World Won’t Stop Them*. It’s about crime, gambling and corruption in Saratoga Springs through 1921.

**Sept. 18, 2018 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** Author *Mary Cuffe Perez* will talk about her new book – *Barn Stories*.

**Oct. 16, 2018 – Tuesday**, meeting 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center. **Program:** Jim Richmond and Kim McCartney, co-authors of a new book: *Milton, New York: A New Town in a New Nation*. Kim McCartney is Milton’s Town Historian. Jim presented at one of our meetings almost two years ago on a book he wrote, *War on the Middleline*.

Everyone is welcome, admission is free, you don’t have to be a member to attend and refreshments are served after all programs.

### April Notes

by Mary Vetter

Hi All! Well, the weather cooperated last month and we were able to hold our monthly meeting as scheduled. We went over our recent board meeting which was quite productive. We hammered out all of the dates for this year’s events and laid plans to get them organized. As our plans progress we may be asking for help. We are always happy to have members lend their talents to our efforts.

The speaker for March was Marie Willard who gave us a wonderful account of her childhood in Middle Grove. Her presentation was alive with details about the people and the places that populated her youth. It was delivered with much humor and a clear sense that she loved her childhood and the place where she grew up. Middle Grove came alive through the home and school life of one little girl as she grew to young adulthood. Marie told me that she is working on the history of mill owners in the area and I sincerely hope that she will come back and talk to us on that subject. It was just a delight to have her.

She was kind enough to give me a copy of her talk and a stack of photos of places she references. I have uploaded her presentation and photos to the “Greenfield Views” page on our website so that our community at large can enjoy the presentation. There are several icons at the bottom of the post and the four little arrows furthest to the right will allow you to bring the document up full size for easy reading. Also, on that same page you can view a video that Ron Feulner did on the Graphite Mine.

I am often remiss in thanking our refreshment committee. Once again, a heavenly selection of cookies and cakes graced our gathering. Please join us this month when Mary Jane Pelzer provides us with a history and demonstration of soap making.

### SAVE THE DATES

**June 15-Sept. 7 – Farmers Market**

**Aug. 11 – Caboose Day**

**Oct. 13 – Gala**

*Thanks to the refreshment volunteers for March, Mary Vetter and Jane Potter. They served a Variety Package of Cakes and Lemon Cupcakes, Chocolate Chip Cookies and Chocolate Peanut Butter Bars.*

*April refreshment volunteers are Sandy Wimet and Patty Schwartzbeck.*

*Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson*

## Shop at Amazon Smile

*Help support our historical society when you shop at Amazon. Amazon Smile, the charitable arm of Amazon, will make a donation to us on qualifying purchases when you sign into your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com. The first time you do this, tap Accounts & Lists then tap Your Amazon Smile. On the right-hand side of the screen tap the change charity button and type in: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society.*

*Once you have saved us as your charity, start shopping. When you checkout, Amazon will let you know if any of your purchases qualify for a donation. Amazon then sends the donation to us. You do nothing more. Remember to sign in at smile.amazon.com on all your Amazon shopping trips to support us.*

*Thanks!*

## Second Mug Now Available

This year's mug features the IOOF Hall which is now The Town of Greenfield Historical Society's Chatfield Museum of Local History. The Baptist Church, which dates in the early 1900s, is seen before the IOOF Hall and the carriage house is not visible.

Cost again this year will be \$10. You can place your order by contacting Joan Rowland at 518-893-7786 or by mailing in your check and request to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. If you are in need of the mug to be mailed to you, please add shipping cost of \$8.



## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Ron Feulner

In March, I wrote about why those of us who live in Greenfield take so much pride in the fact. Since then, I have been thinking about the volunteers in the historical society who give so much of themselves to make our organization work. From the officers who give the organization direction to the people who show up on work days, to people with special talents, like Janet Jones, who does our newsletter every month, you are all a very dedicated group.

The historical society is now looking for another special volunteer: someone to take over and supervise our wonderful museum at the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove. We are searching for someone with organizational talents who can set up special programs at the museum and also organize the volunteers who have in the past kept the museum open on Fridays and Saturdays during the summer.

In the past, we have had no difficulty in finding volunteers to open the museum during these times, so the director only needs to organize their schedules. The right person can work around their own personal needs to meet ours. If you want to meet some interesting people and give back to our community, this may be chance for you to accomplish both. If you think that you might be interested or you know someone who might, please contact me or our president, Mary Vetter. You can contact me at town hall on Wednesdays (phone 518-893-7432, ext. 315) (email Rfeulner@greenfieldny.org)

In February, I wrote about the Braim family from Braim Road. I received an email from Louise Wessling who provided much of the material for that article. She wrote:

“Hi Ron,

I just read the February newsletter article that you wrote from the info I shared with you about Captain John Braim. In reading the article, I realized I made a couple of mistakes – I reported that “Henry J. stayed behind in Bavaria to care for an ailing wife...” That should have read “John Braim stayed behind in Bavaria to care for an ailing wife...” So you were correct in assuming later that “Henry J. was Captain John.”

“There was a Henry J. Braim. He was the son of Henry G. and grandson of Captain John Braim. Henry J. was also married to a Margaret Sesselman (obviously not the same Margaret Sesselman that Captain John was married to and stayed in Bavaria to care for). Henry J. Braim was my grandfather, Henry G. Braim my 2x Grandfather, and John Braim my 3x Grandfather. I reported that John was my 2x Grandfather when he, in fact, he was my 3x Grandfather. Phew! Sorry about the errors. It's so hard keeping all these Braims straight, especially when they share the same/similar names!”

“I enjoyed reading your newsletter article about my family. Thanks so much for sharing it.”

## Taller

By John R. Greenwood, March 30, 2013



It was the last Saturday in March and I needed a lift. Although it was a generic winter by Northeast New York standards, it still took a toll on me. My weight was up. My spirits were a little damp. Although there were exciting things approaching in the weeks ahead, I still needed a, “good swift kick in the pants.” I decided an early morning walk was in order. I threw on a warm hat and gloves, grabbed the camera, a small writing pad, and my driver’s license (just in case a texting terrorist happens to use me for morning target practice) and out the back door I went – in search of a sign of spring. I knew I needed something special to ignite my soggy mood. I began to think about my friend the mocking bird. The mocking bird who inspired me to write one of my first published pieces, *Life Is Where You Look*. I couldn’t think of a more appropriate sign than to see and hear some tree top tunes.



I was a quarter mile down the road when I took a right hand turn into the office complex where my feathered friend likes to sing from the light pole tops. That’s when I caught a hint of music. It wasn’t Lady Gaga coming from the Honda Civic that scooted by, it was coming from above and beyond. I tilted my head and lifted my ear to the sky. Sure as sprouting crab grass I heard it. It was a song mix that could only come from Disney magic or a mocking bird and all signs pointed to my friend.



I am in some unexplained way convinced that this spring ritual of visiting the mocking bird at the end of my road is some affirmation from mom high above. In some warm and

personal way I have taken it as a sign that her and dad are okay and that I should continue on my midlife journey with youthful exuberance. It’s a simple way to reenergize my heart and my spirit. What happened next took this little story to another level. Trust me when I tell you this bird never flinched when I approached. In fact mocking birds seem to take great pleasure in entertaining anyone who will watch or listen. As I stood there leaning against the adjacent light pole I put away my camera and pulled out my pad to jot down the notes I used to create this post. At that exact moment, that white-bellied bird took flight and set itself to dance. It soared in and out of the trees like a small kite in a brisk wind. She swooped and darted; she flitted and circled. Around and around a small group of trees she danced. You could see the joy in that bird’s flight and as I watched the choreographed performance play out, the joy in my heart swelled like a bucket of sponges. There was something extra special about that ninety-second display. Then something strange happened. I slowly pulled out my camera to capture the moment, and the second I brought the camera up in front of me the dance ended and she flew back to the top of the pole and stared down at me. She looked right at me as if to say, “I knew what you needed. That dance was for you and no one else.” I tucked the camera back inside my coat, tipped my head in respect and walked away with just what I needed, and much, much more.



As I left the parking lot of Community Care Pediatrics I heard a different chorus being directed my way. I looked up and saw the fattest, reddest, happiest robin I have ever seen, singing her big fat heart out. Singing backup on the right was the brightest, proudest, most energetic cardinal I have ever had the pleasure to meet. Both birds seemed to be saying goodbye. It was as if the whole group had gathered in this highly populated place to take a stand and let everyone know how much joy there is left in the world. It was as if all three were sending me the same message.

***There is beauty throughout the world. You can find it when you want to. You need to trust your instincts and never hesitate to follow where your heart tries to point you.***

On the last day of March I was reminded of this and how it turned a short walk down the road into a ‘growing’ experience. On my way home my lungs and my heart were replenished and my stance; well let’s just say I was walking a little taller...

<https://rainingiguanas.blogspot.com>

*Editor’s Note: John, I’m glad you’re continuing with the “Bottle Release.” Wish more people knew about them; where those bottles are coming from and why. Maybe I’ll put your bottles in next month.*



*Our March Program: Marie Willard talking about growing up in Middle Grove in the 1950s and some of the older people and families she knew back then.*

## Community Announcements

### Simpson United Methodist Church Spring Vendor Fair and Bake Sale

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**  
**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**1089 Rock City Road, Rock City Falls**  
Vendors, Bake Sale, Light Lunch for sale

## *The Town of Greenfield Seniors*

The Town of Greenfield Seniors meet at the Town of Greenfield Community Center at 1 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday.  
President – Sandra Kanar

Meal site location – Town of Greenfield Community Center, 25 Wilton Road, call 518-893-7644 for reservations.

Free bus transportation for medical and legal appointments – for reservation call 518-884-4100.

Senior Trips – The Town of Greenfield sponsors trips for Senior Residents and provides the coaches. When available, seating will be offered to members of other Senior Groups (who are not town residents) and other folks residing outside the town. Payment should be made a month in advance of the date of the trip unless otherwise stated. If you find you cannot go after signing up, please notify the trip coordinator, in case there is a standby list. Any questions, call Pat Brust at 518-584-3318. Check website for more information, [www.greenfieldny.org](http://www.greenfieldny.org), under Senior Citizens.

ALL PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO GREENFIELD SENIORS.

### *2018 Seniors Trip Schedule*

#### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2018**

##### **WATERFRONT AT SILVER BIRCHES**

##### **COUNTRY JAMBOREE**

6:45 a.m. – Bus reports to load at Greenfield Seniors

7 a.m. – Depart Greenfield, stop enroute ½ hour

11 a.m. – Arrive at Waterfront at Silver Birches, coffee and apple streusel cake. Artisan jewelry, gifts and local specialty food available

11:30 a.m. – Live Music and Dancing

Noon-3 p.m. – Open bar with draft beer, wine and soda, cash bar available for mixed drinks.

12:30-2 p.m. – Family style menu: Tomato juice, broccoli salad, home baked bread, roast turkey with chef's homemade stuffing, herb encrusted eye of round of beef with pearl sauteed onions, penna pesto, seasonal vegetables, raspberry cheesecake, coffee and tea

2 p.m. – Country Jamboree featuring Donna Minnoe and the Country Mystics. Put on your Western duds, kick up your heels and get ready for a grand ole time. Donna and the Country Mystics are famous for their varied repertoire of old country classics and new country hits. Be sure to wear your dancing shoes – this is one show you won't take sitting down.

3:30 p.m. – Snack before departure

4 p.m. – Depart, stop enroute

8 p.m. – Estimated return to Greenfield

Cost – \$45

#### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2018**

##### **MOHEGAN SUN OR MYSTIC AQUARIUM**

5:45 a.m.– Bus reports to load at Greenfield Seniors

6 a.m. – Depart Greenfield, stop enroute

10:30 a.m. – Arrive **MYSTIC AQUARIUM**. With habitats featuring sharks, stingrays, jellies and more, you can explore the depths of our ocean planet like never before. Discover the beauty and mystery of underwater worlds that house thousands of colorful fish and exotic marine animals. Indulge your sense of adventure by looking through, crawling under and even reaching into our unique displays. Be daring and touch the back of a docile shark at Shark Encounters. Dip your fingers in the cool water at our Discovery Lab and learn how to hold a crab. Relax as translucent jellies gently float around you. Get closer to these calm creatures at the Ray Touch Pool just outside the Main Gallery and feel the sensation of a ray glide below your fingertips or even suckle food right from your hand. Your ticket also includes the 4D show. When you are done at the Aquarium you can walk to the Olde Mystick Village. Stroll the beautiful lanes and enjoy shopping in distinctive buildings designed to represent a New England Village. In our Village, we have picturesque settings of flowers, trees and duck ponds that surround you as you relax and unwind. Our shopkeepers pride themselves on offering you some of the most interesting and unique items from around the world. Walkways and restrooms are handicapped accessible. There are many benches and rest areas to catch your breath, unwind, enjoy the beautiful surroundings and let your mind slip pleasantly back to another era.

**OR**

*Continued on next page*

Spend the day at **MOHEGAN SUN** – More than 300,000 square feet of gaming excitement within three casinos: Casino of the Earth, Sky and Wind, including smoke-free areas; The Shops at Mohegan Sun, a 130,000 square-foot retail shopping experience; over 40 restaurants, bars and lounges; 3-story crystal mountain, a 55-foot indoor waterfall, an electrifying water wall. Each passenger will receive a \$15 meal/shopping coupon (will cover the buffet in full) and a \$15 free play good at the wheel or tables. Bonus cannot be used in slot machines.

3:45 p.m. – Bus will load at Mystic Aquarium  
 4 p.m. – Depart Aquarium  
 4:15 p.m. – Pickup at Mohegan Sun  
 4:30 p.m. – Depart Mohegan Sun. Stop if desired  
 9 p.m. – Estimated return to Greenfield  
 Cost – Gamble: \$2; Aquarium: \$28

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2018

#### MAMMA MIA – THE MAC-HAYDEN THEATER

9:30 a.m. – Bus reports to load at Greenfield Seniors  
 9:45 a.m. – Depart Greenfield  
 11:30 a.m. – Buffet Lunch at Whitestone Cafe  
 1:30 p.m. – Arrive Mac-Hayden Theater  
 2 p.m. – Mamma Mia – You’ve been asking for it and the time has finally come. This mega hit is sure to have you dancing in the aisles – just don’t do it during the blackouts. As the most requested show in the history of the Mac-Hayden, Mamma Mia has finally arrived to delight you and leave you dancing in the aisles. Packed with hits and glitz, this mega-hit is sure to leave you feeling out of this world.  
 4:30 p.m. – Show ends  
 4:45 p.m. – Bus loads and departs after show is over. Stop enroute if desired  
 6:30 p.m. – Estimated return to Greenfield  
 Cost – \$57

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018

#### COOPERSTOWN, NY

8 a.m. – Bus reports to load at Greenfield Seniors  
 8:15 a.m. – Depart Greenfield, stop enroute  
 10:45 a.m. – Arrive Glimmerglass Queen  
 11 a.m. – Boat departs. A narrative tour of Otsego Lake on the modern, clean Glimmerglass Queen affords an educational, scenic and refreshing way to learn about this stunning nine-mile lake. Here, you can learn about James Fenimore Cooperstown’s love for the lake and the beautiful surrounding hills.  
 Noon – Boat docks. Depart for Otesago  
 12:30 p.m. – Buffet lunch at Otesago. With a bright, elegant setting and an enticing steakhouse menu featuring delicious seasonal fare, The Otesago’s Glimmerglass provides an exquisite dining experience sure to create treasured memories. Executive Chef Jim Perillo serves a creative take on classic American cuisine with an emphasis on fresh, local ingredients of the highest quality. After a leisure lunch depart Otesago  
 2:30 p.m. – Fly Creek Cider Mill and Orchards – Historic, water-powered cider mill on the banks of Fly Creek pressing fresh, sweet cider for more than 160 years, minutes from Cooperstown and Open All Year. Experience the Mill Marketplace’s daily tasting of over 40 specialty foods including fresh mill-made fudge, mill-aged extra sharp cheddar cheese, salsa, apple  
 3:30 p.m. – Depart Cooperstown  
 6 p.m. – Estimated return time to Greenfield Seniors  
 Cost – \$58

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

#### AMERICAN THRU SONG WITH JIMMY MAZZ MALLOZZI’S, SCHENECTADY, NY

10:15 a.m. – Bus reports to load at Greenfield Seniors  
 10:30 a.m. – Depart Greenfield, no stops planned  
 11:30 a.m. – Arrive at Mallozzi’s  
 Noon – Chicken marsala, salad, potato, dessert, coffee and tea  
 Show – Take a dynamic musical journey across the county from New England to the Pacific Coast and back again. Hear Broadway, Motown, Elvis, Las Vega, polka, country, crooner tunes and more with a few surprise stops along the way.  
 3 p.m. – After show ends board bus  
 4 p.m. – Estimated return to Greenfield  
 Cost: \$46

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018

#### LAKE GEORGE STEAMBOAT

9:45 a.m. – Bus reports to load at Greenfield Seniors  
 10 a.m. – Depart Greenfield  
 10:45 a.m. – Arrive Lake George Steamboat. Group leader to report to booth to pick up tickets  
 11 a.m. – Board boat  
 Noon – Boat sails. Enjoy lovely fall foliage aboard the Cruise ship Lac du Saint Sacrement. Today is a special event German Oktoberfest Luncheon. Music from the Bavarian Barons and dine on authentic German Food.  
 2:00 p.m. – Boat docks  
 2:15 p.m. – Board bus. Stop for Ice Cream or ??  
 4:00 p.m. – Estimated return time to Greenfield  
 Cost – \$52

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

#### CASTLE OF THE KNIGHTS, CHICOPEE, MA BUDDY AND BEYOND

8 a.m. – Bus reports to load at Greenfield Seniors  
 8:15 a.m. – Depart Greenfield. Short stop enroute (3/4 hour)  
 11 a.m. – Lunch, please choose entree when signing up: Roasted salmon or sliced sirloin of beef, rolls and butter, vegetable and potato, deep dish apple crisp, coffee and tea  
 Show – You will be transported back in time when you could go to your favorite malt shops with your favorite girl and dance to your favorite bands. The show is a tribute to the music of legends of Rock ‘n’ Roll beginning with the late Buddy Holly and leading up to the legendary Jerry Lee Lewis, Ricky Nelson, Chuck Berry and many more.  
 3 p.m. – After show ends board bus. Short stop if you wish  
 6 p.m. – Estimated return to Greenfield.  
 Cost – ????

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018

#### CHRISTMAS WITH ELVIS BLUE CHRISTMAS LOG CABIN, HOLYOKE, MA

8:15 a.m. – Bus reports to load at Greenfield Seniors  
 8:30 a.m. – Depart Greenfield, short stop enroute 3/4 hour  
 11 a.m. – Hors d’oeuvre welcome platter, rolls and butter, chop salad, brisket with mushroom gravy, crispy country fried chicken, herbed-roasted potatoes, warm apple pie with vanilla ice cream.  
 Show – Matinee. This Christmas celebration with Elvis, starring Ray Guilloimet as “Ray of Elvis,” will be a tribute you will want to come back to again and again.  
 3 p.m. – After show ends board bus, short stop if you wish  
 6:30 p.m. – Estimated return to Greenfield  
 Cost: \$56

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL AVAILABLE ONLINE

Become a member of The Town of Greenfield Historical Society and receive our newsletter. **Our membership year begins June 1 and ends May 31, dues are paid annually. Send \$10 per household (or \$100 for Lifetime Membership)** along with your name and address to the address shown below. **IF YOU SEND MORE THAN \$10, THE BALANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED A DONATION.** You also may join at one of our meetings. Send this application form and fee to The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Make checks payable to: The Town of Greenfield Historical Society. **YOU CAN PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE! [www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.GreenfieldHistoricalSociety.com).** Email [toghistsoc@gmail.com](mailto:toghistsoc@gmail.com) for more information. **Click on STORE, ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP – HOUSEHOLD or LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP and follow the instructions.**

**Please Print** – Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  I am interested in volunteering.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of interest to you \_\_\_\_\_

To sponsor a newsletter send \$50 along with your name and address and the wording describing whom you would like it dedicated to.

If you know someone whom you think might want to become a member, send us their name and address, and we will send them a copy of our newsletter along with information on how they can join.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**If you'd like to dedicate and/or sponsor a newsletter, send \$50 to *The Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833*, include your name, address and the wording describing who you would like it dedicated to and/or sponsored by. Please send articles and/or photos to: [JJones18215@roadrunner.com](mailto:JJones18215@roadrunner.com).**

### Updating Historic Sites Map in the Town of Greenfield

We invite our membership and readers of this newsletter to share with Dan any historical information about an interesting person, place, structure or event within our town. Dan reserves the right to proof read and edit submissions, but he will be very happy to add your information to our map. We are always looking for historical information to add to and enhance the map, which we consider to be an ongoing work in progress. Please email Dan Chertok at [Chertok@LCYLAW.com](mailto:Chertok@LCYLAW.com) or write him at: Dan Chertok, 58 Ormsbee Road, Porter Corners, NY 12859



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